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WAREHAM & PURBECK RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year 1937, on the

Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Area

by

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Ashwick,
Poole Road,
Bournemouth,
May, 1938.

To the Wareham Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

I. POPULATION.—(a) Estimated Population, 16,740. Acres, 95,986.

The total number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books on Dec., 1937, was:—Private Houses, 3,304; Farm Houses, 317; Farm Cottages, 523; Public Houses, 34; Total, 4,178.

II.—RATEABLE VALUE.—1936, £67,876; 1937, £69,193. Sum represented by a penny rate, £279 15s. 0d.

III.—SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND UNEMPLOYMENT.—This is for the most part an agricultural district. The following works are situated within this area:—Royal Naval Cordite Factory; Sandford Pottery; Brick and Tile Works; Furzebrook Clay Works; Quarries at Worth Matravers.

IV. Vital Statistics. Live Births Total 247

	M	F
Legitimate	114	124
Illegitimate	5	4

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 14.75. Stillbirths.—Total 6.

Deaths.—Total 169. Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 10.09.
Deaths from puerperal causes, Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age;
All infants per 1,000 live births, 48.58.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births, 40.5.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	Nil.
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	Two.
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	Nil.

There has been no noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity in the area during the year, nor is there any evidence to show that unemployment has adversely affected the health of the area.

Of the 169 deaths notified during the year:

4	were due to	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.
1	,,	other Tuberculous Diseases.
32	,,	Cancer and Malignant Disease.
8	,,	Cerebral Hæmorrhage.
56	,,	Heart Disease.
7	,,	other Circulatory Diseases.
4	,,	Bronchitis.
3	,,	Pneumonia.
0	,,	other Respiratory Diseases.
6	,,	other Digestive Diseases.
0	,,	Suicide.
6	,,	Influenza.
8	,,	other Violence.
5	,,	Senility.
3	,,	Appendicitis.
4	,,	Nephritis.
2	,,	Diabetes.
2	,,	Peptic Ulcer.
2	,,	Whooping Cough.
6	,,	other Defined Diseases.
1	,,	Ill Defined or N.K.

Section B.—General Provisions of the Health Services for this Area.

1. The Public Health Officers of the Local Authority are:

Medical Officer of Health ...	Part Time.
Sanitary Inspector ...	Full Time.
Additional Sanitary Inspector ...	Full Time since March.

2. There are no Laboratory facilities within the area. All pathological material for investigation is sent to the Laboratory at Poole, or, in the case of blood Wasserman reaction, to Winchester—the cost is debited to the Council.

3. There are no Ambulance facilities.

4. The area is well supplied with Nurses by the County Nursing Association.

5. There are no special Clinics, and no special Treatment Centres in this area. Cases are sent to Wareham Borough, Poole, Bournemouth, or Dorchester, as thought fit.

6. There is only one Hospital over which the Council has full jurisdiction. This is the Small Pox Isolation Hospital at Norden Heath, in which accommodation for cases of Small Pox will be found pursuant to the County Council scheme under section 63 of the Local Government Act of 1929.

Section C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

I. 1. The Water Supply of the area is mainly through non-pipe supplies, that is, by means of public wells, private wells, and rain water tanks. No illness has been brought to notice which could with certainty be attributed to this primitive method. Yet in the majority of cases no satisfactory precautions against contamination are adopted. There is, in fact, sufficient control by the Council through their refusal to issue a Water Certificate, as required by the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, to any householder whose system of water supply is not considered satisfactory in accordance with the circulars of the Ministry of Health.

In this area there are piped supplies to Lytchett Minster and Wareham St. Martin (from Poole Water Works); lower half of Langton Matravers and Corfe Castle (from Swanage Water Works); to Bovington from the War Office water supply; and to Studland, West Lulworth and Wool from private supplies belonging to the respective estates. There are, in addition, several short piped supplies in various villages. Frequent examinations of local supplies have been made during the past year. In nearly every case the water has been satisfactory.

There was no shortage of water in our district last year. The problem of supplying Acton has still to be solved.

2. Drainage and Sewers.—Steps are being taken to extend the present system at West Lulworth. There is still need for an up-to-date drainage system at Corfe Castle, Langton Matravers and Bere Regis.

II. Rivers and Streams.— There is still a certain amount of pollution of rivers and streams.

III. Closet accommodation is the general rule throughout the district. There are no sewers in this area except the village of West Lulworth.

IV. Scavenging and Cleansing.—Out of the 26 parishes there are nine at present where the refuse is removed. The extension of this system is desirable. The system would be desirable in all villages. Owing to the modern method of food packing it is difficult to dispose of waste tins and bottles.

Sanitary Inspection of this Area.—Report of the Sanitary Inspector furnished under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926:

Sanitary Inspections.—Total Number of inspections, 2379. Number of Informal Notices 268; complied with, 113. Total number of statutory notices, nil.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—Number of persons on the register at the end of 1937, 300. Number of Dairy Farms and Dairy Premises on register, 1937, 299. Number of Dairy Farms inspected, 274. Number of inspections, 597. Number of notices served, 3; complied with, 3. Number of milkshops inspected, nil; Number on Register, nil.

Special attention has been paid to the matter of Cowsheds, especially as to the provision of concrete floors, wide drainage channels, ventilation and regular whitewashing; also as to the collection and storage of milk. The Council is making every effort to bring dairies and cowsheds up to standard. Marked improvements have taken place during the past few years. I am glad to say many farmers have taken advantage of the accredited system, consequent improvement in the general hygiene of the cows and cowsheds.

Slaughterhouses.—Total 14. Number registered, 7; licensed, 7. Number of inspections, 287. Number of notices served, nil.

Meat Regulations.—Number of notices of slaughtering received, 33. Number of notices of Diseased or Unsound Meat received, 4. Number of slaughterings attended by M.O.H., 13; by the Sanitary Inspector, 287. Number of carcases or organs of meat found diseased or unsound, 2,784 lbs.

V. The sanitary condition of the majority of the Schools is primitive and in many cases could be improved. The water supply is generally from wells.

VI. Mosquitoes and their Prevention.—For the past few years the Council has taken steps to destroy, as far as possible, these insects. In 1937, similar measures were taken.

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Section D.—Housing.

I. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

1. (a). Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects, 1055.
   (b). Number of inspections made for the purpose, 1419.
2. (a). Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations, 1055.
   (b). Number of inspections made for the purpose, 1419.

Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 61.

Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 225.

II. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, 82.

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a). Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act of 1936:

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, 0.
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:
   (a). By Owners, 0.
   (b). By Local Authority in default of Owners, 0.

(b). Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, 28.
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
   (a). By Owners, 24.
   (b). By Local Authority in default of Owners, 0.

(c). Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act of 1936:

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, 10.
2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, Nil.

(d). Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act of 1936:

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made, 2.
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit, Nil.

IV. Housing Act, 1936.—Overcrowding.

(a). 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year, 18.*
   2. Number of families dwelling therein, 19.
   3. Number of persons dwelling therein, 105.

(b). Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year, Nil.

(c). 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, 35.
   2. Number of persons concerned in such cases, 205.

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding, 0.

(e). Number of new houses erected during 1937, Nil.

Number erected during 1937 with State assistance:
1. By Local Authority, Nil.
2. By other Bodies or persons, Nil.

Number of houses owned by Local Authority, 84.

Approximate number of working class houses in district, 3,400.

* Includes 6 dwellings where overcrowding will shortly be abated, 2 dwellings which will shortly be demolished.

Section E.—Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

Supplies of Milk, Meat and other Foods are frequently inspected both by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

Section F.—Prevalence of Infectious and other Diseases.

I. The past year has been free from epidemics of infectious disease. The usual number of Scarlet Fever have occurred, and only one case of Diphtheria.

II. Table of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease.	*Total Cases Notified.*	*Cases Admitted to Hospital.*	*Deaths.*
Scarlet Fever	15	14	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Enteric Fevers	1	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	14	4	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Erysipelas	3	0	0
*Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0	0

*This case occurred at Bovington and dealt with by Military Authorities.

III. Tuberculosis: New Cases and mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-15	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15-25	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-35	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
35-45	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	0
45-55	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
55-65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and up	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	4	2	1	3	1	3	0	0

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

I.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

	Number of Inspections.	*Written Notices.*	*Occupiers Prosecuted.*
Factories	4	0	0
Workshops	17	0	0
Workplaces	3	0	0
Total	24	0	0

II.—Defects Found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(a) Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—

	Number of Defects. *Found.*	*Remedied.*
Want of Cleanliness	3	3
Want of Ventilation	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0
Want of Drainage of Floors	0	0
Other Nuisances	0	0
Sanitary Accommodation :—		
Insufficient	0	0
Unsuitable or defective	0	0
Not separate for sexes	0	0

(b) Offences under the F. and W. Acts :—

Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses	0	0
Other offences	0	0
Total	3	3

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

VINCENT P. NORMAN.

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